Vision Defects Among School Children

500. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to State:

(a) whether about 50 per cent school children in urban areas in the country suffer from vision defects but are not even aware of them;

(b) if so, whether India has one-fourth of the world blind population and majority of these 12 million suffers from correctable vision defects;

(c) whether this was revealed in a report which was released on 9"^ October, 2002 on the eve of World Sight Day;

(d) whether Government have examined the report;

(e) if so, the States with more number of cases of vision defects; and

(f) the concrete steps Government have taken, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) Ministry of Health has not received any such report. However, refractive error is the commonest visual impairment in children. Recent studies in India indicate that refractive error is responsible for visual impairment in more than 70% of the affected children. To tackle this problem, School Eye Screening and provision of spectacles to the poor & needy children is being done through funds available in the District Blindness Control Societies under National Programme for Control of Blindness. Of the total estimated 45 million blinn in the world, 7 million are in India.

Dismal Condition of Cancer Patients in Government Hospitals in Delhi

501. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of dismal condition of cancer patients in various Government hospitals in NCT of Delhi;